

Amendments to the Claims

1. (currently amended) A network device, comprising:

a converter operable to receive a packet data stream that is not to be transmitted over a public switched telephone network and to convert the packet data stream to an altered data stream to be transmitted over a public switched telephone network data stream; and

a controller operable to:

send signals through the converter in the altered data stream ~~in the public switched telephone network data stream~~ identifying the network device as a packet device capable of receiving a packet data stream and converting it into an altered data stream;

~~receive signals indicating at least one other network device is participating in a public switched transmission session with the network device~~ determine, using signals received from at least one other network device, whether the network device is participating in a public switched transmission session with at least one other network device capable of converting the altered data stream to the packet data stream; and

send the packet data stream across the public switched transmission network to the at least one other network device ~~without using the converter~~ if it is determined that the at least one other network device is capable of converting the altered data stream to the packet data stream; and

send the altered data stream across the public switched transmission network to the at least one other network device, if it is determined that the at least one other network device is not capable of converting the altered data stream to the packet data stream.

2. (original) The network device of claim 1, wherein the network device is a voice gateway.

3. (original) The network device of claim 1, wherein the packet data stream further comprises coded voice.
4. (original) The network device of claim 1, wherein the packet data stream further comprises data.
5. (original) The network device of claim 1, wherein the converter further comprises a voice coder/decoder.
6. (original) The network device of claim 1, wherein the converter further comprises a modem.
7. (original) The network device of claim 1, wherein the controller uses ITU V.8 protocols.
8. (original) The network device of claim 1, wherein the controller uses robbed-bit signaling.
9. (original) The network device of claim 1, wherein the controller is a processor configured to execute all control operations.
10. (original) The network device of claim 1, wherein the controller further comprises more than one integrated circuit.
11. (currently amended) A network device, comprising:
 - a means for receiving a packet data stream that is not to be transmitted over a public switched telephone network and converting a the packet data stream to an altered data stream to be transmitted over a public switched transmission network data stream; and
 - a means for controlling the network device, wherein controlling the network device includes:
 - sending signals through the means for receiving a packet data stream ~~into the public switched telephone network~~ in the altered data stream identifying the network

device as a ~~packet device~~ device capable of receiving a packet data stream and converting it into an altered data stream;

~~receiving signals indicating at least one other network devices are participating in a public switched transmission session with the network device; and~~

~~_____ sending the packet data stream across the public switched transmission network directly to the at least one other network device~~

determine, using signals received from at least one other network device, whether the network device is participating in a public switched transmission session with at least one other network device capable of converting the altered data stream to the packet data stream;

send the packet data stream across the public switched transmission network to the at least one other network device, if it is determined that the at least one other network device is capable of converting the altered data stream to the packet data stream; and

send the altered data stream across the public switched transmission network to the at least one other network device, if it is determined that the at least one other network device is not capable of converting the altered data stream to the packet data stream.

12. (currently amended) A method of transmitting a packet data stream across a public switched telephone network, the method comprising:

establishing a communication session between a first packet device and other devices across a public switched telephone network by transmission of an altered data stream produced from a received packet data stream converted to the altered data stream; public switched telephone network data stream through a public switched telephone network converter;

determining whether the network device is participating in a public switched transmission session with at least one other network device capable of converting the altered data stream to the packet data stream, using signals received from the at least one other network device~~using transmission of identifying signals to identify at least one other network device participating in the communication session as a packet device; and~~
~~altering the communication session between the first packet device and the at least one other network device to transmit a packet data stream on the public switched telephone network eliminating use of any public switched telephone network converter prior to call establishment~~

sending the packet data stream across the public switched transmission network to the at least one other network device, if it is determined that the at least one other network device is capable of converting the altered data stream to the packet data stream; and

sending the altered data stream across the public switched transmission network to the at least one other network device, if it is determined that the at least one other network device is not capable of converting the altered data stream to the packet data stream.

13. (original) The method of claim 12, wherein establishing a communication session further comprises dialing out of a packet domain to a public switched telephone network domain.
14. (original) The method of claim 12, wherein using transmission of identifying signals further comprises transmitting signals in accordance with ITU Recommendation V.8.
15. (original) The method of claim 12, wherein altering the communication session further comprises eliminating a conversion through a voice coder/decoder.
16. (original) The method of claim 12, wherein altering the communication session further comprises eliminating a conversion through a modem.

17. (previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the method further comprises:

gathering information on the at least one other network device; and

storing the information for future use in identifying the other network device as a packet device.

18. (previously presented) The method of claim 17, wherein using transmission of identifying signals further comprises:

accessing a storage of known network devices based upon the identifying signals;

locating information about the at least one other network device; and

using that information in altering the communication session.

19. (original) The method of claim 12, wherein using transmission of identifying signals further comprises the first network device sending the identifying signals.

20. (original) The method of claim 12, wherein using transmission of identifying signals further comprises the first network device receiving and responding to identifying signals sent by another network device.

21. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium including software code that, when executed, results in:

establishing a communication session between a first packet device and other devices across a public switched telephone network by transmission of an altered data stream produced from a received packet data stream converted to the altered data stream;

determining whether the network device is participating in a public switched transmission session with at least one other network device capable of converting the altered data stream to the packet data stream, using signals received from the at least one other network device;

sending the packet data stream across the public switched transmission network to the at least one other network device, if it is determined that the at least one other network device is capable of converting the altered data stream to the packet data stream; and

sending the altered data stream across the public switched transmission network to the at least one other network device, if it is determined that the at least one other network device is not capable of converting the altered data stream to the packet data stream.

~~establishment of a communication session between a first network device and other devices across a public switched telephone network by transmission of a public switched telephone network data stream through a public switched telephone network converter;~~

~~use of identifying signals to identify at least one other network device participating in the communication session; and~~

~~alteration of the communication session between the first network device and the at least one other network device to transmit a packet data stream across the public switched telephone network eliminating the public switched telephone network converter prior to call establishment.~~